



**eNews from Sen. Lisa Murkowski - Vol. 3, Issue 7: : [Visit Senator Murkowski's Web Site](#)  
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### **Murkowski Recognizes Efforts of Anchorage Police Officer**

On May 11, I recognized Anchorage Police Community Service Officer Cathy Diehl-Robbins for her successful efforts to honor a fellow officer who died from injuries sustained in the line of duty more than 50 years ago. Officer Diehl-Robbins is a 29-year veteran of the Anchorage Police Department who first took up the challenge of chronicling the department's history on her own time.

On June 9, 1953, Anchorage Police Officer William G. Pfalmer, Jr., was shot and paralyzed while stopping a stolen vehicle. Sadly, in 1970, he passed away as a result of wounds suffered 17 years earlier. On May 13, fallen Officer Pfalmer was honored in the Nation's Capital as his name was added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

Because of the tireless efforts and perseverance of Officer Diehl-Robbins, an Alaskan hero will finally receive the honor he has earned. Officer Pfalmer was a dedicated public servant who paid the ultimate sacrifice for upholding his oath to protect and serve. I thank Officer Diehl-Robbins for her commitment to her fellow officers and offer my gratitude to the family of Officer Pfalmer for his service to the city of Anchorage.



*Senator Murkowski meets Officer Diehl-Robbins and husband Everett alongside Garry and Michael Pfalmer - Officer William Pfalmer's son and grandson.*

### **Senator Murkowski Supports Iraq Spending Bill**

After weeks of debate, leaders in the House and Senate have reached a compromise on an Iraq spending bill that the President has agreed to sign. I support this bi-partisan spending measure

and believe it strikes a good balance between giving troops the resources they need and requiring that Iraqi leaders meet certain benchmarks on political and security reforms.

Throughout the debate, I have remained opposed to an arbitrary timetable for withdrawal. I maintain a timetable puts our troops in greater danger, emboldens our enemy and sends an unacceptable message to American servicemen and women.

This compromise funding measure shows our troops, their families and the rest of the world that Congress and the American people support the military and their efforts.

### **Senate Indian Affairs Committee Approves Legislation to Improve Health Care to American Indians and Alaska Natives**

The Senate Indian Affairs Committee recently approved legislation authored by Senator Byron Dorgan that I cosponsored to renew and improve the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

This is an important first step in an effort to address critical health care issues facing Alaska Natives and American Indians. I will work with my colleagues on the Committee to push Congress to finalize action on this bill.

The Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments of 2007 (S. 1200) takes a comprehensive approach to improving Indian health care, including:

- Increasing the number of Indians and Alaska Natives entering health professions;
- Authorizes the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund to address backlogs in health care services to Indians;
- Authorizes Facilities Construction;
- Addresses Social Security Act provisions;
- Authorizes a variety of health services for urban Indians;
- Makes organizational improvements within the Indian Health Services; and
- Authorizes a variety of behavioral health programs.

### **Murkowski Applauds Anchorage Teachers**

I recently had the honor to meet with two teachers from Alaska who were in Washington, D.C. to receive the 2006 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Rebecca Sorensen, a mathematics teacher from Inlet View Elementary School in Anchorage, and Jennifer Thompson, a science teacher from Gastineau Elementary School in Juneau, are the only winners from the state and two of 93 teachers nationwide to receive the prestigious award.

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are the Nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science. The Awards recognize highly qualified K-12 teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession.

Since 1983, more than 3,700 outstanding teachers have been recognized for their contributions to mathematics and science education. If you know great teachers, nominate them to join this prestigious network of professionals. [Visit paemst.org to learn more.](http://paemst.org)



*Senator Murkowski had the honor to meet Rebecca Sorensen and Jennifer Thompson when they visited Washington, D.C.*

### **June Named Internet Safety Month**

The United States Senate has passed a resolution that I sponsored with Senator Ted Stevens which designates June 2007 as National Internet Safety Month. The bipartisan resolution is designed to bring greater attention to the need for comprehensive Internet safety education.

The Internet has become one of the most significant advances in the twentieth century and, as a result, it affects people's lives in a positive manner each day. However, this technology presents dangers that need to be brought to the attention of all Americans. It is imperative that all Americans learn about the Internet safety strategies which will help keep their children safe from victimization.

For information on how you can help keep your kids safe visit [isafe.org](http://isafe.org).

### **Congress Extends Secure Rural Schools Funding**

Congress today approved a one-year extension to the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. The program provides a dedicated funding stream for local municipalities and school districts dependent on forest timber receipts that have been unable to rely on consistent and sustainable payments due the continued controversy over timber sales in National Forests.

I will continue to push for a long-term extension to Secure Rural Schools similar to one approved by the Senate earlier this year. In the meantime, this one-year extension will provide schools and communities the revenue they desperately need.

### **Murkowski Reflects on Memorial Day**

I know that many of my fellow Alaskans will be out and about enjoying the beginning of Alaska's summer this Memorial Day weekend. I hope that it is a safe one. But as you enjoy our Great Land, take a moment to recognize those whose sacrifices give us the freedom to enjoy the season. [To listen to the full remarks visit my website.](#)

**Senate Passes Water Resources Development Act**

The United States Senate recently passed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The bill contains many of the same authorizations as those in the 2005 legislation which passed the Senate on July 19, 2006. That bill was sent to conference, but a conference report was not filed before the 109th Congress adjourned.

Congress authorizes specific Army Corps of Engineers projects in WRDA, including studies, before appropriating funds to them. Congress has not completed a WRDA since 2000. Passage of WRDA is long overdue. I am hopeful that the members of the House and Senate Conference Committees will act swiftly on this bill so that we can finally appropriate funds for critical infrastructure projects across the country.

In Alaska, WRDA provides the following:

- Haines Small Boat Harbor - Authorizes \$11 million to provide additional protection to the existing 2.25-hectare mooring and maneuvering basin and add a new adjacent 6.60-hectare basin with an additional entrance channel.
  - Black Lake – Authorizes a study to determine the effects of erosion and a potential aquatic restoration project at the head of the Chignik watershed.
  - Kodiak - Authorizes \$2 million for the Secretary to carry out, on an emergency basis, the necessary removal of rubble, sediment, and rock impeding the entrance to the St. Herman and St. Paul Harbors.
  - Sitka – Authorizes \$6.3 million to repair the breakwater at Thomson Harbor.
  - Seward – Authorizes a study to determine whether a design deficiency exists in the outer breakwater of the small boat harbor.
  - Wrangell – Raises the water supply project authorization limit, from \$24 million to \$40 million, for a future appropriation.
  - Barrow - Feasibility study for new small boat harbor.
  - Nome – Authorizes a study to determine whether cost increases are due to a design deficiency.
  - Old Harbor - Feasibility study to upgrade the small boat harbor.
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*Senator Murkowski and Sally Field recently addressed the National Osteoporosis Foundation.*





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Washington, D.C. Office 709 Hart Senate Building Washington D.C., 20510 202-224-6665

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